

Ser. No. 10/652,643

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1-20 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claim 4 is canceled, claims 1, 5, 6, 13, and 16 are amended, and claim 21 is added. No new matter is presented.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-10 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Blazek (US 4,702,298) or Blazek et al. (US 4,170,256 or 4,066,116). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Advisory Action, additionally, noted Mills (US 4,552,197).

Claim 1 has been amended to identify the mold section internal surfaces as forming associated feeding passageways. Support for this is found at paragraph 0020 of the present pre-grant publication (see element 74). Claim 1 has also been amended to identify mold sections as being assembled with a single distribution manifold. The manifold has a plurality of feeder conduits so that each feeder conduit mates with an inlet of an associated one of the feeding passageways. Support for this is found in former claims 4 and 6 (see also 18) and paragraph 0021 of the pre-grant publication. The references clearly fail to suggest such a combination. The specification has been amended to correspond.

Regarding independent claim 8, the references clearly fail to disclose the combination using the specified manifold. For example, Mills has but a single downpole 14.

Independent claim 13 is believed similarly patentable. Furthermore, there is no suggestion for positioning a plurality of filters each in an associated one of the feeder conduits (see also claims 19 and 20).

New dependent claim 21 identifies further assembling the mold sections atop a chill plate. This, for example, is not suggested by Mills which teaches assembling sections to a "ceramic base portion 16" which, in turn, is atop the chill plate. Support for claim 21 is found in paragraph 0023 of the pre-grant publication.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

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Claims 3, 5-7, and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously cited patents. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the arguments noted above and previously submitted.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-3 and 5-21 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

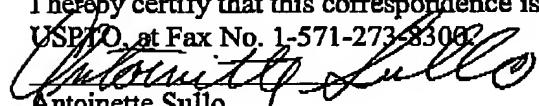
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed this 9th day of November, 2005 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.


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